

Shine Bright LLCE Cycle Terminal

Snapfile 18 Life of Pi

Shiva and the tiger p. 214

One day, Shiva came to Earth. Some sages and their wives were praying there. When they saw Shiva the women left their prayers and went to meet him. The sages were not happy with this and sent a tiger to attack Shiva. Shiva killed it with one hand, took off its skin and wore it as a shawl. The sages then made a deer jump at Shiva. But he caught it in one of his four hands and held it there always. Then the sages created a very poisonous serpent and sent it to Shiva, but Shiva simply caught the serpent and wore it around his neck as a necklace. Shiva is therefore called the Lord of Serpents. (...) the name Shiva means "Auspicious one" or "one who brings good luck".

A simple story p. 215

Host: What do you think is it about this book that so resonates with critics? A simple story...

Yann Martel: Hmm... I think it's the oddity of it. You know it's this mixture of theology and religion, which is kind of odd. Also it's a grand adventure story...

Host: A story of survival, a story of endurance, a story of pain, a story of relationships.

Yann Martel: But at the same time... So it seems to be very simple, a kind of very straightforward adventure story, and yet you realise, at the end, "Oh there a lot more depth to it than I realised." And one thing that I like, one of the most flattering things you can say of the book is, you know, I finished it and I immediately started re-reading it. And I have a number of people who said that that they finished it and they immediately started re-reading part 1. Cause they suddenly realised, "Oh, there a lot more to it than I realised."(...)

Host: Give me a sense of what you're able to do, in this relationship, that's so compelling.

Yann Martel: Well, listen, the interesting thing about castaway stories, is that despite the fact that they take place in the great open seas, in fact they're domestic dramas. I mean you're confined to a small space, so it's a domestic drama, it's nearly a bourgeois drama, the cast away story, so... as much as there has to do in a house, in a relationship, there's much to do in a cast away, in a little lifeboat. So, there's many details of survival. You know, Pi's obsessed with knots that keep his raft together, he has to find food, he has to find water, he has to learn how to tame, to some extent, Richard Parker, he must deal with the animal life of the Pacific, whether it's fish, whales, dolphins, sharks, at one point I say the sea is a city,

Host: Exactly! With subway with all kinds of things passing...

Yann Martel: Now it is true! The sea is a busy place, it's not this vast void of water and so there's much in dealing with the various things that can happen in the Pacific Ocean.

Host: There is this too you have to do in this book, you have to, at every turn because Pi knows this: Richard Parker would eat him in a second. There is that overwhelming, as you say, these upsets, boredom and terror. He knows that Richard Parker is totally capable and he's seen it happen, on the boat. And you've got to keep that alive, at every page, because this has to hang there...

Yann Martel: Yes, that's a point we should make, that it is a real tiger, it's not - it's not out of a Walt Disney...

Host: Yeah it's not of imagination either

Yann Martel: No this is a real 450 pound wild Bengal tiger. And yet because Pi knows animals, he understands its mind.

Going further p. 216

Host: Just some final thoughts on what you hope your audiences will take away from *The Life of Pi*.

Suraj Sharma: First of all, which is more evident, is hope. Because you believe in yourself and you believe in something bigger than yourself to come and to take you out of this situation and pull you out, because every human being goes through what Pi did in their own way and in their own life.

Host: And some of your - your thoughts...

Irrfan Khan (Adult Pi): I think that if you can just realise that there's no hope in rationality, you know, there's no hope in definitions. You know it's just a mystery, it's just magic what we're experiencing you know. And don't try to understand it. Just feel it and experience it.

Ang Lee (director): I hope when people watch the movie they get stirred up, they start thinking the unbelievable. I think it's a wonderful thing, that's why we watch movie in the first place.